

CLAIMS:

1. An identifying tag for association with a sound file, the identifying tag comprising:

a plurality of points selected at at least one frequency from a frequency domain representation of at least a portion of the sound file.

2. A method of identifying a sound file, the method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) determining a frequency domain representation of at least a portion of the sound file;
  - (b) selecting a plurality of points at at least one frequency from the frequency domain representation; and
  - (c) generating an identifying tag for the sound file based upon the selected points.

3. A method of identifying and comparing sound files, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) determining a first frequency domain representation of at least a portion of a first sound file;
- (b) selecting a plurality of first points at at least one frequency from the first frequency domain representation;
- (c) generating a first identifying tag for the first sound file based upon the selected first points;
- (d) determining a second frequency domain representation of at least a portion of a second sound file;
- (e) selecting a plurality of second points at the at least one frequency from the second frequency domain representation;
- (f) generating a second identifying tag for the second sound file based upon the selected second points; and
- (g) comparing the first points of the first sound file to the second points of the second sound file.

5. The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the step of comparing the first points to the second points involves determining a degree of distance between the first points and the second points.

6. The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein, in comparing the first points to the second points, a total number of differences that do not exceed a pre-established threshold are ignored as oddities.